

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/632,358

Examiner

Madeline Gonzalez

Applicant(s)

MCLEAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 8/1/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a cutting unit for cutting a material having a surface, the cutting unit including a blade adjustment mechanism positioned at least partially within a receiving region, said cutting unit having a pressure collar, a plunger operatively connected to the pressure collar and acting against a blade retaining mechanism, and a biasing member for acting against the plunger relative the pressure collar, wherein movement of the pressure collar adjusts the position of the blade retaining mechanism by changing the amount of bias imparted by the biasing member against the plunger, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim.

Claims 2-10 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 11 is allowed because the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a cutting unit for cutting a material having a surface, the cutting unit including a blade adjustment mechanism positioned at least partially within a receiving region, said cutting unit having a pressure collar, a plunger operatively connected to the pressure collar and acting against a blade assembly, and a biasing member for acting against the plunger relative the pressure collar, wherein movement of the pressure collar adjusts the position of the blade assembly by changing the amount of bias imparted by the biasing member against the plunger, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim.

Art Unit: 2859

Claims 12-18 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 11.

Claim 19 is allowed because the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a cutting unit for cutting a material having a surface, the cutting unit including a blade adjustment mechanism positioned at least partially within a receiving region, said cutting unit having a pressure collar, a plunger operatively connected to the pressure collar and acting against a blade assembly, and a biasing member for acting against the plunger relative the pressure collar, wherein movement of the pressure collar adjusts the position of a blade retaining mechanism by changing the amount of bias imparted by the biasing member against the plunger, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim.

Claims 20-24 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 19.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2859

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Madeline Gonzalez whose telephone number is (571) 272-2243.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:30), alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F.F. Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MG



Diego F.F. Gutierrez  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
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**CHRISTOPHER W. FULTON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**